

**RG6128.MI - Biography of a Bill:
A Study of Nebraska's Unicameral Legislature (1963)**

Presented as part of Social Studies Grade Eight
by the Nebraska Council for Educational Television

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of University of Nebraska Photographic Productions

[A description of the process by which a bill becomes law in the Nebraska
Unicameral Legislature.]

Aerial view of the Capitol in Lincoln, with introductory remarks by the narrator
about the uniqueness of the Nebraska Legislature, which has been unicameral and
non-partisan since 1937.

The first twenty days of the legislative session are set aside for the introduction of
bills by individual senators; after that initial period, bills may be introduced only by
the standing legislative committees or by the Governor.

Chart of the eleven steps in the introduction and eventual approval of a bill. A daily
work sheet is prepared for the Senators so that they can monitor the process of each
bill.

This film follows the process (the eleven steps) by which an issue or problem is
initially identified, a bill is drafted on behalf of an individual Senator, referred to a
committee for discussion and public hearings, debated and/or amended on the floor
of the Legislature, ultimately approved by the Legislature, and signed into law by the
Governor. The role of lobbyists in providing additional information to the Senators
is explained. Note: the Lieutenant Governor presides over the Legislature.

As an example of the legislative process, a bill mandating seat belts for all passenger
cars beginning in 1964 is followed from its introduction to its final approval by the
Legislature. The bill is then sent to the Governor for his signature. The veto power
of the Governor is explained.

The Lieutenant Governor highlights the preeminent importance of the Legislature
and of individual Senators in the processes of government in Nebraska.

Governor Frank B. Morrison summarizes the final approval process for any bill
while highlighting the uniqueness of the unicameral system in Nebraska. The
narrator concludes: "This is democracy in action."

Narrator: Charles B. Klasek

Cinematographers: John Werner, Brockford Gordon, Kaz Tada
for University of Nebraska Photographic Productions

Written by Kenneth Fouts, Charles B. Klasek
for Nebraska Council for Educational Television

Produced and Directed by C. Edward Cavert
for University of Nebraska Television
KUON-TV

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